



Arkansas Rice Update

Dr. Jarrod Hardke

May 5, 2017 No. 2017-07

www.uaex.edu/rice

Crop Progress

If it wasn't for bad luck I guess we'd have no luck at all. Initial estimates of rice lost due to flooding in northern Arkansas now exceed 150,000 acres. Additional "acres affected" pushes the economic hit to extreme levels (**Figure 1**). As we approach 7+ days of submerged rice the conversation turns increasingly toward the ability of rice to survive. Every day more acres are going under as water moves south; some acres are coming out of the flooding but not many. More water is being released out of Missouri that will likely worsen the situation.

With Arkansas only projected to plant 1.2 million acres of rice (USDA-NASS), we're now in an interesting position. I felt we would be in the 1.1 million acre range this year. Either way take 150,000 acres off lost to flood, and subtract another 120,000 that haven't been planted yet.

Simple math says that puts us in the range of the lowest acres since 1987 or we might fall below 1 million acres for the first time since 1983 (Table 1).

Maybe the planting acreage estimate was too low from mine and USDA estimates and we'll have more acres than we think. Maybe more acres lost or not yet planted will be planted/replanted than we think. It's too early to know, but as of today it looks like a very low number of acres – possibly a 30-year low.

Rice futures prices have been doing some interesting things this week. That's been a little surprising as we still know so little about the extent of the damage and lost acreage. We'll know in a few weeks and how the market responds is anyone's guess.

Fig. 1. Initial estimated impact of rains and flooding in Arkansas.

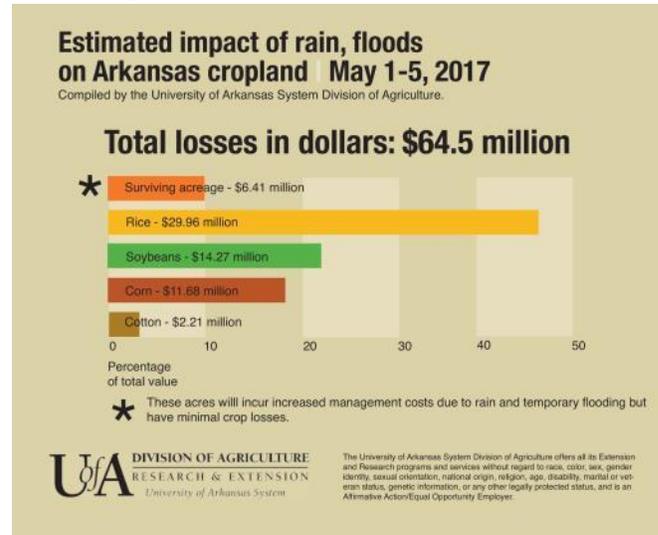


Table 1. History of Arkansas rice acreage harvested and state average yield.

Year	Acres (1,000)	Yield (bu/A)	Year	Acres (1,000)	Yield (bu/A)
1979	1020	96.0	1998	1485	128.9
1980	1280	91.3	1999	1625	130.0
1981	1540	100.4	2000	1410	135.8
1982	1330	95.3	2001	1621	141.1
1983	915	95.1	2002	1503	143.1
1984	1150	102.2	2003	1455	146.9
1985	1050	115.6	2004	1555	155.1
1986	1020	117.8	2005	1635	147.8
1987	1010	116.7	2006	1400	153.3
1988	1210	118.9	2007	1325	160.7
1989	1140	124.4	2008	1395	148.0
1990	1200	111.1	2009	1470	151.1
1991	1260	117.8	2010	1785	144.0
1992	1380	122.2	2011	1154	150.4
1993	1230	112.2	2012	1285	166.2
1994	1420	126.7	2013	1070	168.0
1995	1340	121.1	2014	1480	168.0
1996	1170	136.7	2015	1291	163.1
1997	1390	126.7	2016	1521	153.8



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Survival of Submerged Rice

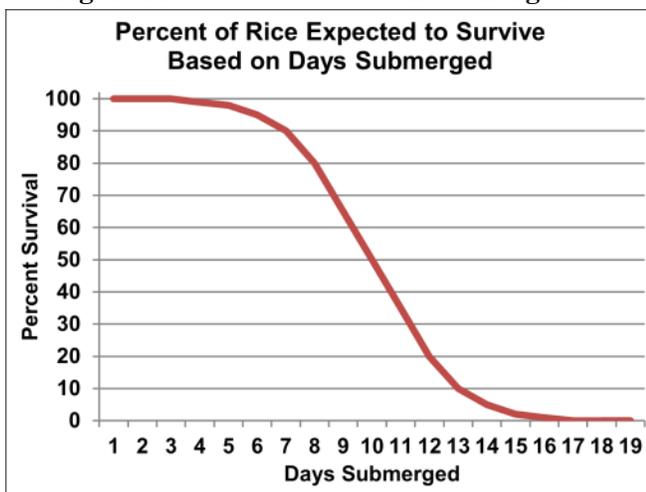
There have been tons of questions about whether any of the previous numbers thrown out about rice survival mean anything. In a word, yes. I've seen too many acres of rice up and down the state submerged at every stage imaginable for a wide range of time lengths. Aside from the extremes there are some pretty consistent expected outcomes.

The key is that there are wide ranges of response based on environmental factors. It goes back to the golden rule of farming: it all depends. So have a look at **Figure 3**.

You can see that 10 days is generally about the 50/50 point. I've seen rice die after being under for 4 days and I've seen rice live after being under for over 21 days. Plan based on the average, not the extreme. If you've got rice under for 10 days, act like it's not going to be there when the flood comes off.

Please keep in mind that this figure is not based on data – it is based on a large number of observations over time. Putting it into a figure of this type is meant only to provide a visual aid about what to expect. All the previously mentioned variables still come into play.

Fig. 2. Rice survival based on submergence.



While not making light of the current situation, many could use a laugh right now:



If We Get to Replant, What Will Be Available to Replant?

A reminder on comments made earlier in the week – the final planting date for rice in Arkansas is May 25, 2017. “The late planting period begins the day after the final planting date for the insured crop and ends 15 days after the final planting date.” This reads to me that June 9 is the final day of the late planting period and June 10 is the first day past – consult with your crop insurance agent.

But remember the final planting date for soybeans is June 15, 2017. That should make things interesting in the coming weeks of deciding what to do as many acres may not be accessible until June.

Despite the lower rice acreage expected this year, seed supplies are extremely tight and there are few available options for additional acres of replanting. Of what is available, there is little of it. There will be some hard decisions made.

Assuming you can switch over to soybeans – finding seed there may also be extremely difficult. The increase in soybean acres expected to start the year was going to strain seed supplies and finding seed for another 200,000 acres may be asking too much.

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I wish there were more answers to provide, but we're still in 'wait and see' mode with our flooding problems. The best advice is to start making tentative plans and arrangements now to increase our odds of making it through 2017 as best we can. What seemed like such a good start to the year looks like anything but.

Herbicide Plant-Back Intervals

One thing to begin considering as we make plans for what to do next is what our options are – this is where herbicide plant-back restrictions are of serious concern. Regardless of what has happened in fields, these intervals are there for a reason and we must stick with them (it's the law). Also don't forget your season maximum application rates still apply. Not included below but should be noted are Newpath and Beyond – both of these have lengthy plant-backs to any crop other than Clearfield rice or soybean. Consult [MP519](#) for more information.

Table 2. Plant-back intervals for selected rice herbicides.

Herbicide	Cotton	Corn	Rice	Soybean
Bolero	6M*	6M	6M	6M
Clincher	3M	3M	I	3M
Command	I	9M	I	I
Facet L	10M	10M	I	10M
Grandstand	4M	4M	I	4M
Grasp	3M	3M	3M	3M
League	8M	12M	I	12M
Obey	309D	309D	I	309D
Permit	4M	1M	I	9M
Prowl	I	FS	FS	I
RebelEX	30D	30D	I	30D
Regiment	FY	FY	I	FY
RiceBeaux	60D	60D	I	60D
Ricestar HT	30D	30D	I	30D
Sharpen	1-3M	I	I	0-30D

* I – crops can be planted immediately; D – number of days; M – number of months; FY – crops can be planted the following year; and FS – the following season.

Fig. 3. Flooding in Arkansas and Missouri. April 25 (left) vs. May 2 (right). Blue/black is water. Images from NASA.

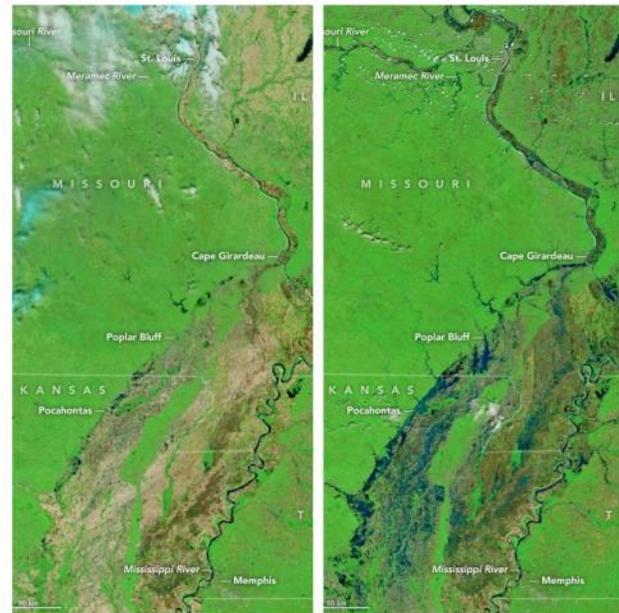


Fig. 4. Flooding on Highway HH in Missouri south of Clearwater Lake. Additional releases from the lake of 7,000 cubic ft per second are expected which will flow down the Black River into affected areas.



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Flooding in Northeast Arkansas

The following images are courtesy of Mike Andrews, Extension agriculture agent in Randolph County.



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Preflood Nitrogen Recommendations

Despite the flooding in northeast Arkansas, early fields throughout the state are approaching the need to fertilize and establish the permanent flood. Our earliest planting date studies, planted late March and early April, need to go to flood next week based on the DD50 program. The [2017 Rice Farming for Profit](#) publication on pages 12-14 contains recommendations for nitrogen rates, urease inhibitors, and determining midseason nitrogen needs using the Greenseeker handheld.

Enroll Fields in the DD50 Program to Help Time Management Decisions

The variability in environmental conditions the past few seasons has shown the importance of managing the rice crop on time. The DD50 Rice Management Program helps to predict the timing of the most critical practices to make sure we hit our marks and produce the best crop that the environment allows. The DD50 program can be found at <http://DD50.uaex.edu>. The program is now much friendlier for mobile use than in the past and efforts are underway to further improve functionality for future seasons. Please let us know if you have any questions or encounter any problems.



Additional Information

Arkansas Rice Updates are published periodically to provide timely information and recommendations for rice production in Arkansas. If you would like to be added to this email list, please send your request to rice@uaex.edu.

This information will also be posted to the Arkansas Row Crops blog (<http://www.arkansas-crops.com/>) where additional information from Extension specialists can be found.

More information on rice production, including access to all publications and reports, can be found at <http://www.uaex.edu/rice>.

Acknowledgements

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